



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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RANKING MEMBER
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MEMBER
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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Joint Committee on Judiciary
Public Testimony
March 21, 2016

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 73 RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE DECISION OF THE CLAIMS COMMISSIONER TO DISMISS THE CLAIM AGAINST THE STATE OF FRANK AND MELINDA DUMOND

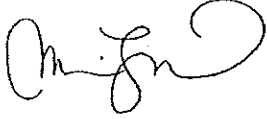
Good Morning Co-Chairs Senator Coleman, Representative Tong; Vice Chairs Senator Doyle; Representative Fox; Ranking Members Senator Kissel, Representative Rebimbas; and esteemed members of the Committee. My name is Melissa Ziobron and I am proud to represent the 34th District, which encompasses the towns of East Hampton, East Haddam and a part of Colchester. I am writing today in opposition to HJ 73.

This morning I am here today in support of my constituents, Frank and Melinda Dumond and especially their son Damien. He is an exceptional young man who is currently a student at Vinal Technical High School in Middletown. It is at this school on the morning of October 28, 2013 in which Damien suffered a horrific injury to one of his teeth. While removing a wooden peg from a board, said peg struck him in the tooth resulting in it breaking. For some reason there was no adult supervision in the gym at that time. Since then Damien has undergone numerous dental procedures to repair the tooth which cracked below the gum line.

Unfortunately, the school has denied responsibility for the incident, claiming it cannot be covered since they do not carry insurance for these types of injuries. To further complicate this situation, the Dumond's insurance claims were also denied because the injury was to a tooth. Nevertheless, I do believe the school does hold a certain level of responsibility. Damien was on school property without adult supervision and for the school to simply dismiss this incident demonstrates a troubling lack of culpability on their part. Due to this, the Dumond's are now contending with the strain of the financial burdens of treating for Damien's care without any assistance. I understand we must be careful with these claims but considering the circumstances surrounding this incident, I believe it is appropriate this claim move forward.

I am also troubled with the seemingly endless misinformation provided to my constituents from the administration of Vinal. If they had been given proper information, this claim would have been filed on time and we would not be here today.

I ask the committee to not approve this resolution dismissing the claim of Frank and Melinda Dumond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Ziobron', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Melissa Ziobron
State Representative, 34th District